

Message Text

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62

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5690

INFO USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MEIR'S REMARKS AT LUNCHEON FOR SECRETARY
KISSINGER

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCHOWCROFT AND ZIEGLER

1. FOLLOWING IS ROUGH TRANSCRIPT FROM TAPE OF PRIME MINISTER
MEIR'S REMARKS AT LUNCHEON GIVEN BY MRS MEIR FOR SECRETARY
KISSINGER SUNDAY, MAY 26:

2. QUOTE: DR. KISSINGER HAS PROVEN THAT THERE IS NOTHING THAT
IS IMPOSSIBLE--BUT TO THE DEGREE (WORDS OBSCURED) THAT
HE HAS MADE THE ISRAELIS BELIEVE THAT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.
THEREFORE, THERE IS ALWAYS EXTREME SURPRISE WHEN HE TRIES TO
PROVE TO US THAT THERE IS HERE AND THERE SOMETHING THAT IS REALLY
IMPOSSIBLE. I AM CONVINCED THAT SOME DAY NOT ONLY WILL DR.
KISSINGER'S BIOGRAPHY BE WRITTEN, BUT THAT THE HISTORY OF THIS
REGION AT THIS PERIOD OR AT ANY PERIOD, AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED,
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WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING, INTERESTING CHAPTERS IN

THAT BOOK.

3. ISRAEL HAS BEEN EXTREMELY FORTUNATE THAT SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT AS A FREE AND SOVEREIGN STATE AND IN THE YEARS BEFORE THAT WE HAVE NOT ONLY HAD, I MIGHT SAY, THE LARGEST PORTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH US, BUT ALL ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE BEEN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL. WE HAVE APPRECIATE THAT; WE THINK IT'S ONE OF THE GREATEST INTERNATIONAL ASSETS THAT ISRAEL HAD--AND HAS. BUT I THINK THAT IF ANYBODY HAD COME TO US AT ANY TIME AND SAID THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD TAKE OUT WEEKS IN LITERALLY SHUTTLEING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM, BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM, GOING IN THE MORNING AND COMING BACK AT NIGHT, GOING AT NIGHT, COMING BACK IN THE MORNING AND PUTTING EVERYTHING THAT THIS MAN HAS--AND HE HAS A LOT--OF INTELLECT AND SOUL AND ABILITY AND I THINK ONE CAN SAY WITHOUT EXAGGERATION, A MASTER OF NEGOTIATIONS.

4. I DON'T THINK ANYONE OF US IS HIS EQUAL; IT'S NONSENSE, IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE. BUT THIS IMPOSSIBLE THING IS ALSO HAPPENING. SOME OF US, FEW OF US, ARE FORTUNATE, I AM ONE OF THEM, WHO MADE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF DR. KISSINGER SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN HE WAS INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED THROUGH THE OFFICE THAT HE HELD, WITH ISRAELI PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND OUR NEIGHBORS AND SPECIFIC ISRAELI PROBLEMS. I MAINTAIN THAT ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF ISRAEL WAS--AND STILL IS--THAT WE HAVE TO EXPLAIN OURSELVES, SOMETIMES OUR VERY BEING. I MAINTAIN THAT, AT LEAST FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, MY POINT OF VIEW, IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHAT OUR PROBLEMS ARE BECAUSE THEY ARE ACTUALLY VERY SIMPLE.

5. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE THAT CAN EXPLAIN THE EINSTEIN THEORY. I HAVE YET TO FIND SOMEBODY THAT CAN EXPLAIN SIMPLY WHY TWO AND TWO ARE FOUR AND NOT SIX. AND OUR PROBLEMS ARE NOT OF THE LEVEL OF THE EINSTEIN THEORY BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY OF THE LEVEL OF TWO AND TWO ARE FOUR. THEREFORE WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BECAUSE TO US IT SEEMS EXTREMELY SIMPLE.

6. IN THIS VAST AREA WITH SO MANY INDEPENDENT ARAB STATES, SOME OF THEM BLESSED WITH GREAT NATURAL RESOURCES, WATER RESOURCES, WITH ALMOST UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT
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WITH TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, HERE WE ARE IN A TINY SPOT IN THAT AREA WITHOUT ANY NATURAL RESOURCES, ACTUALLY WITH STILL VERY FEW IN NUMBER AND ALL THAT WE HONESTLY AND SINCERELY REALLY WANT OF OUR NEIGHBORS IS TO LIVE. TO BE ALLOWED TO LIVE. PHYSICAL EXISTENCE. AND TO LIVE IN PEACE AND IN COOPERATION AND IN FRIENDSHIP WITH THEM.

7. NOW HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN SOMETHING THAT IS SO SIMPLE?

WE DIDN'T GO OUT TO GET MORE TERRITORY, WE DON'T TAKE ANY RESOURCES AWAY FROM THEM. NOTHING THAT ORDINARILY ARE THE CAUSES OF WAR BETWEEN PEOPLE. BUT THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT WE WANT TO BE, AND THEY WANT US NOT TO BE. AND THAT DEFINITELY IS A VERY DIFFICULT THING TO EXPLAIN. I AM CONVINCED THAT DR. KISSINGER WANTS TO EXPLAIN SO MANY THINGS, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE CAN EXPLAIN IT, IF YOU WILL FORGIVE ME, BUT HE UNDERSTANDS. THIS SIMPLE THING WHICH IS SO DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO SO MANY IN THE WORLD, I BELIEVE THAT DR. KISSINGER UNDERSTANDS.

8. BUT HE UNDERSTANDS--AND TAUGHT US, I THINK--VERY MUCH THE UNDERSTANDING HE SHOWED FOR THE OTHER SIDE, EVEN THOUGH WE--AND MAYBE NOT ONLY WE--THINK IT UNREASONABLE, IRRATIONAL, UNJUST. BUT I THINK HE HAS GIVEN US A LESSON THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE RIGHT AND TO BE CONVINCED THAT ONE IS RIGHT: THAT WE KNOW. BUT IN ORDER TO REACH A POINT WHERE WE CAN REALLY SIT TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE IN OUR AREA, WE MUST ALSO HAVE SOME UNDERSTANDING NOT TO ACCEPT THINGS THAT ARE NOT RIGHT BUT TO AT LEAST UNDERSTAND THEM. I THINK HE'S GOTTEN TO KNOW US, HE'S SHOWN AN AWFUL LOT OF PATIENCE WITH US, HOURS AND HOURS AND HOURS AND QUIBBLING ABOUT THINGS THAT I SUPPOSE MANY OTHERS WOULD HAVE SAID: 'THIS IS NONSENSE. SO MANY BIG THINGS ARE AT STAKE AND YOU QUIBBLE ABOUT THIS LITTLE THING.'

9. AND I THINK ONE OF MY JOYS IN ALL THESE HOURS WASN'T ALWAYS DR. KISSINGER'S JOYS; IT WAS THAT HE WAS NOT IMPATIENT WITH US WHILE WE WERE QUIBBLING ABOUT TINY MATTERS BECAUSE HE HAS GRASPED THE BASIS OF OUR DESIRE, AND THAT IS 'TO BE.' AND EVERYTHING THAT HE SAID WE BROUGHT UP, WE BELIEVED THAT IT MAY ENDANGER OUR

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VERY BEING. IT LOOKS SMALL. IT LOOKS TINE. IT LOOKS UNIMPORTANT IN COMPARISON WITH GLOBAL MATTERS. AND YET DR. KISSINGER HAD UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY FOR US EVEN IF HE DID NOT AGREE WITH US. SOMETIMES WE DID NOT AGREE WITH HIM. THAT WAS VERY SELDOM, BUT THAT TOO HAS HAPPENED. BUT HE UNDERSTOOD WHY AT LEAST WE BRING UP THESE MATTERS AND WHY ON SOME MATTERS, VERY FEW, USUALLY WE GIVE IN VERY EASILY, BUT WHEN WE HOLD OUT HE AT LEAST UNDERSTOOD WHY WE HOLD OUT EVEN IF HE DIDN'T AGREE.

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